



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Online Mass Offering:
tinyurl.com/SFXMassOfferings
UEN: T08CC4033J
Reference: Mass Collection

Fixing Our Eyes Upon Jesus

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
20 Jul 2025

Gen 18: 1-10
Col 1: 24-28
Lk 10: 38-42

Who truly holds your gaze in life? Who has captured your heart and soul? When it comes down to a choice between Jesus and you, who would be Number One?

For Mary, the answer was obvious. Whenever Mary was before Jesus' holy presence, "the things of this earth would grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace" (to borrow a line from the hymn *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* by Brooke Fraser). Mary prioritised staying close to the Lord, listening to him, and focusing on what he wanted to give to her – truth, wisdom, courage, patience, peace, joy, all the virtues and spiritual help necessary to walk with him faithfully. Jesus praised her choices when he told her sister Martha that "[i]t is Mary who has chosen the better part" and he added that as long as she held this heavenly treasure closest to her heart, "it [will] not [be] taken from her" (Lk 10: 42).

What Jesus was essentially telling Martha after her complaint was that when God makes a covenant with us, it is forever. God is ever faithful. It is we who, in our fragmented hearts, often get distracted and sidetracked, and that's when we stop prioritising our relationship with him. Just like Martha did without realising it, until Jesus pointed it out to her.

Martha turned a potentially perfect opportunity to connect with the Lord into a distraction of service that ended in anxiety; all because she shifted her focus from Jesus to the things of this world – the food, the service and her own need to be busy. Often, that's us too; when our prayer is self-focused (on our demands and desires), and our ministry becomes self-serving (something we do to feel good about ourselves and to receive praise and honour).

Popular exegeses on today's Gospel passage often pit Mary against Martha, describing Mary as the contemplative aspect of the Church (prayer, adoration, Scripture study), and Martha as the active aspect (serving in ministry). They often suggest that Jesus discourages us from being like Martha, and that we should grow to be like Mary, focusing more on being rather than just doing.



*"The Lord desires
to commune with us
intimately, whether in
stillness or action."*

Contrary to popular exegeses, Jesus does not chide Martha for her 'active' hospitality towards him. Gently and from a place of love, Jesus says to her, "Martha, Martha, you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one" (Lk 10: 41). Among the things she was rightly concerned with was taking good care of him. Unfortunately, she also focused her attention on things that distracted her from him. But Jesus was touched by her service. In fact, he often stressed the importance of showing generosity towards those we serve, whether God or our neighbour (cf. Lk 7: 44-46). Like Abraham did for the three men in the First Reading: "Let me fetch a little bread and you shall refresh yourselves before going further" (Gen 18: 5).

In the end, whether we receive Jesus like Mary or Martha, it is always he who gives and graces, not the other way around. We cannot add anything to the Lord, who is perfect and in need of nothing and no one. But opening our hearts and homes to him brings us boundless blessings. It gives us a chance to perpetuate our covenantal relationship with God, an unbreakable bond that makes us his kin for eternity.

The Lord desires to commune with us intimately, whether in stillness or action. Both are a joy and delight to him. But for our sake, when he meets us, he wants our entire focus to be on him alone. Not because he is a needy narcissist, but because we need him so completely in order to fight our daily spiritual battles. For it is only when worship, prayer, breaking the Word, or service in ministry is all about him and not about us, that he can increase while we decrease, that our hearts can become expansive, to love the world as he does.

Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to mmm@sfxchurch.sg by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs



SCAN QR CODE
FOR MASS HYMNS
www.sfxchurch.sg/mass

FAULTY CHURCH PEWS?

Spot any faulty or damaged pews in church? Scan the QR code to share with us at tinyurl.com/SFXFacilityReport.



GIFT COLLECTION

This weekend, there will be a 2nd collection for Catholic Foundation's GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme. Your GIFTS support the work of many Archdiocesan organisations, such as the Digital Church Office that connects, empowers and grows our faith community through technology. Scan the QR code for a video about the work of the Digital Church Office. In faith and thankfulness for the many blessings we have received, please drop your contributions or GIFT envelopes into the collection boxes, or make a pledge to build a vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church at catholicfoundation.sg/give.



CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 21 Jul, 8pm - 9.30pm** at the Auditorium. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'God's gifts Revealed Through Brokenness'. All are welcome!

INTERCESSORY

Join us on **Mon 21 Jul, 8pm** at the Mount Tabor Adoration Room, where we will pray together in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Submit your prayer requests at www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. All prayer requests will be kept confidential.



CELEBRATING OUR GRANDPARENTS & ELDERLY

27 July marks the 5th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly! All are invited to come for Mass and breakfast. To our dear grandparents and elderly, do come by to collect a Prayer Card and have a cute portrait of yourself drawn at the Doodle Station. There will also be an appreciation activity for all to participate in, to bless our grandparents and elderly.

SACERDOTAL ORDINATION OF DEACON TIMOTHY SOO

"Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother"
John 19:25

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
The ordination to the sacred order of priesthood of
Deacon Timothy Soo Zhi Ren

MASS OF ORDINATION
9 Aug 2025, Saturday
10am, Church of St. Francis Xavier
celebrated by His Eminence
William Cardinal Goh

Livestream: youtube.com/@SFXChurchSG

PLEASE NOTE:

- All are welcome to attend the Mass of Ordination and the lunch reception that follows.
- Church doors will open at 8.30am.
- On-site parking is limited to guests with issued parking decals.
- Parishioners are encouraged not to drive. If necessary, kindly park only at designated public lots.

Let us keep Deacon Timothy in prayer as he prepares for his sacerdotal ordination.

SYMBOLON: THE FAITH OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Unlock the profound beauty and depth of the Catholic faith with Symbolon: The Faith of the Catholic Church, and delve into Catholicism's rich history, core teachings and spiritual practices. This series, guided by the Creed, explores everything from the sacraments to inspiring saintly stories, empowering you to understand, live and share your faith confidently. For further enquiries, contact Brian Rezel (9789 2253) or Monica Yap (9669 6781).

Topic: Mary the Mother of God
Date & Time: Fri 15 Aug, 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: JPPII Hall
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/LiFESymbolon2025>



ST FRANCIS XAVIER MAJOR SEMINARY: ANNUAL VOCATION RETREAT

Have you felt a desire to give more? Do you think the Lord may be inviting you to consider the diocesan priesthood? The St Francis Xavier Major Seminary invites all young men aged 21 to 35 for their annual Vocation Retreat. Priority will be given to first-timers. Scan the QR code to register by 3 Aug.

Dates: Fri 22 Aug - Sun 24 Aug
Venue: St Francis Xavier Major Seminary
(618 Upper Bukit Timah Road)
Register: tiny.cc/vocation2025



RE-VISIONING SPIRITUAL DIRECTION IN A CHANGING WORLD BY BR COLLIN WEE

Date: Sat 16 Aug
Time: 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
Venue: La Salle House, 490 East Coast Road, S(429058)
Love offering: \$50 per person
Info/ Register: tinyurl.com/CollinWeeSD



Date: Sun 27 Jul
Time: 8am - 12.30pm
Venue: JPPII Hall / Outside JPPII Hall

NOVENA YOUTH RALLY

At Novena Youth Rally 2025, look forward to food and workshops related to the theme of the rally, followed by Mass and the main rally which will include creative elements, input by the keynote speaker, reflection, Praise and Worship. We will end the night together with Eucharist Adoration.

Date: Fri 5 Sep
Time: 6pm - 10pm
Venue: Novena Church (300 Thomson Road)

CATHOLIC JUNIOR COLLEGE: LEGION OF MARY REUNION

If you were part of the Legion of Mary at Catholic Junior College, come join in a reunion as the praesidia mark their 50th anniversary. For enquiries, please email: CJC.LOM1975@gmail.com.

Date & Time: Sat 13 Sep, 10am
 (Mass, followed by lunch and fellowship)
Venue: CJC Chapel,
 129 Whitley Road, S297822
RSVP: <https://bit.ly/4kpBnsU>



GET TO KNOW *Deacon Timothy Soo*

This weekend, we are excited to bring you the first of a three-part series on Deacon Timothy Soo who is from our parish. Deacon Timothy will be ordained a priest on **Sat 9 Aug, 10am** in our church. In this article, we ask Deacon Timothy about his formative early years.

How would you describe your childhood?

Deacon Timothy: Fun! I remember playing a lot with my younger brother and my two godbrothers since we were neighbours – either at the playground downstairs or bringing our Star Wars toys to each other's homes. We would even play computer games together, each taking our turns while the rest watched and waited!



With his parents, Ginger and Anthony

What aspects of your upbringing contributed to your decision to consider being a priest?

Deacon Timothy: I can think of a few things: the natural witness and practice of the faith of my parents, involvement in the SFX parish community especially my youth community Leaven of God (LOG) and 1Cor12, and being actively involved in ministry from a young age.



Deacon Timothy (right) with his younger brother, Daniel

Were you always “religious”?

Deacon Timothy: I would say that I have always been raised in an environment of faith by my parents and have never “left” Church or had a faith crisis (e.g. believing that God does not exist). I was always “in” Church since Confirmation. Yet, it was only after a personal conversion experience in 2010 that my life began to be radically centred on Jesus Christ.



Deacon Timothy's Baptism



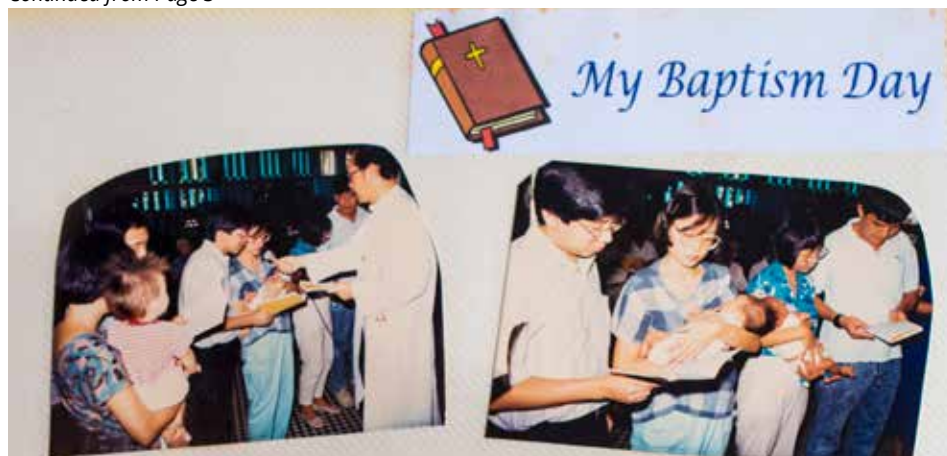
Deacon Timothy is 3rd from the left



Deacon Timothy as a baby



As an endearing young child



Who is your role model and why?

Deacon Timothy: Our blessed mother, Mary! She shows me how to surrender totally to God in the obedience of faith, and that grace moves powerfully amidst the ordinary and seemingly insignificant small acts of love.



Parish Prayer for Deacon Timothy

Heavenly Father,

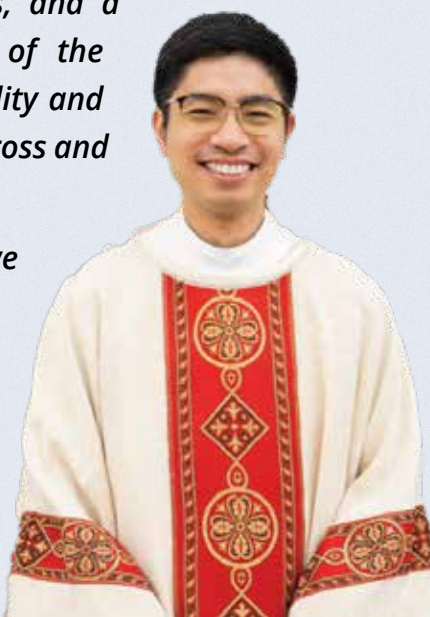
We thank You for calling Deacon Timothy Soo to the gift of the priesthood. As he prepares to offer his life in deeper service to Christ and the Church, we lift him up to You with love and gratitude.

Grant him a heart rooted in prayer, hands made ready for the sacraments, and a spirit open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. May he walk in humility and courage, finding strength in the Cross and joy in Your will.

United as a parish family, we entrust Deacon Timothy to Your care and protection.

O Jesus, we surrender Deacon Timothy to You. Take care of everything!

Amen



Join us in celebrating the Sacerdotal Ordination of Deacon Timothy Soo on Sat, 9 Aug, 10am at SFX.



Looking for more information?
Visit www.sfxchurch.sg

Mass Times

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon - Thu:
6.30pm

Tue - Sat:
6.30am

Fri:
8pm

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat: 5.30pm

Sun: 7am, 9am,
11am, 5.30pm
(There is currently no
Confession before Mass)

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

9am

CONFESSION

Contact Parish Office to
make an appointment.

Fri:
4pm - 6pm

Sat:
10am - 12pm

Opening Hours

MAIN GATE

Mon - Sun:
5am - 11pm

Closed on Public Holidays
after 9am Mass

BACK GATE

Mon - Sun:
5am - 1am

Closed on Public Holidays
after 9am Mass

PARISH OFFICE

Mon - Sat:

9.30am - 6.30pm
Sun: 8.30am - 1pm
Closed on Public Holidays

ADORATION ROOM

Mon - Sun:
7am - 11pm

Closed on Public Holidays

LIBRARY

Sat: 4.20pm - 5.20pm
Sun: 8am - 1pm

COLUMBARIUM

Mon - Fri:
10am - 7.30pm

Sat - Sun:

8.30am - 7.30pm
Closed on Public Holidays

ANointing OF THE SICK

The sacrament can be administered to any Catholic awaiting serious surgery, suffering from serious illness or weakened by old age. Anointing may be given before admission for the anticipated medical procedure. Contact the Parish Office to request for a priest. In emergencies, priests of the church nearest to the hospital can be contacted.



INFANT BAPTISM

Spiritual preparation is held on the last Friday of every odd month. Baptism is held on the first/second Sunday of the following month. For registration, please refer to our website.



FUNERAL

Please check with the Parish Office for priest availability and Mass timing before confirming the timing at the crematorium. For prayers at the wake, please contact the Parish Office.



MARRIAGE

Contact the Parish Office 12 months before your intended date to book the church premises and ensure that your presiding priest is able to make that date.



MASS OFFERING

Mass offering envelopes are available outside the Parish Office and outside JP II Hall. Submit your envelopes at least two weeks in advance of your intended date. Please write the names clearly, and in block letters.



VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg